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or in part, and so advise the parties in writing, stating its reasons; or

- (2) Assert jurisdiction and
- (i) Recommend to the parties procedures for the resolution of the impasse; and/or
- (ii) Assist the parties in resolving the impasse through whatever methods and procedures the Panel considers appropriate. The procedures utilized by the Panel may include, but are not limited to: informal conferences with a Panel designee; factfinding (by a Panel designee or a private factfinder); written submissions; show cause orders; oral presentations to the Panel; and arbitration or mediation-arbitration (by a Panel designee or a private arbitrator). Following procedures used by the Panel, it may issue a report to the parties containing recommendations for settlement prior to taking final action to resolve the impasse.
- (b) Upon receipt of a request for approval of a binding arbitration procedure, the Panel or its designee will promptly conduct an investigation, consulting when necessary with the parties and with any mediation service utilized. After due consideration, the Panel shall promptly approve or disapprove the request, normally within five (5) workdays.

 $[45~{\rm FR}~3520,~{\rm Jan.}~17,~1980,~{\rm as}~{\rm amended}~{\rm at}~61~{\rm FR}~41294,~{\rm Aug.}~8,~1996]$

§ 2471.7 Preliminary factfinding procedures.

When the Panel determines that a factfinding hearing is necessary under §2471.6, and it appoints one or more of its designees to conduct such hearing, it will issue and serve upon each of the parties a notice of hearing and a notice of prehearing conference, if any. The notice will state:

- (a) The names of the parties to the dispute;
- (b) The date, time, place, type, and purpose of the hearing;
- (c) The date, time, place, and purpose of the prehearing conference, if any;
- (d) The name of the designated representatives appointed by the Panel;
 - (e) The issues to be resolved; and

(f) The method, if any, by which the hearing shall be recorded.

[45 FR 3520, Jan. 17, 1980, as amended at 48 FR 19694, May 2, 1983; 61 FR 41295, Aug. 8, 1996]

§ 2471.8 Conduct of factfinding and other hearings; prehearing conferences.

- (a) A designated representative of the Panel, when so appointed to conduct a hearing, shall have the authority on behalf of the Panel to:
- (1) Administer oaths, take the testimony or deposition of any person under oath, receive other evidence, and issue subpenas:
- (2) Conduct the hearing in open, or in closed session at the discretion of the designated representative for good cause shown:
- (3) Rule on motions and requests for appearance of witnesses and the production of records;
- (4) Designate the date on which posthearing briefs, if any, shall be submitted.
- (5) Determine all procedural matters concerning the hearing, including the length of sessions, conduct of persons in attendance, recesses, continuances, and adjournments; and take any other appropriate procedural action which, in the judgment of the designated representative, will promote the purpose and objectives of the hearing.
- (b) A prehearing conference may be conducted by the designated representative of the Panel in order to:
- (1) Inform the parties of the purpose of the hearing and the procedures under which it will take place;
- (2) Explore the possibilities of obtaining stipulations of fact;
- (3) Clarify the positions of the parties with respect to the issues to be heard; and
- (4) Discuss any other relevant matters which will assist the parties in the resolution of the dispute.

[45 FR 3520, Jan. 17, 1980, as amended at 48 FR 19694, May 2, 1983]

§2471.9 Report and recommendations.

(a) When a report is issued after a factfinding hearing is conducted pursuant to §2471.7 and 2471.8, it normally